Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In 1939, the South Dakota Legislature allocated funds and A.H. Pankow was appointed the first Director of Highway Publicity in South Dakota to establish a foundation of grassroots supporters in each area of the state to organize and fund activities to promote tourism in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, The group established 70 years ago in the Black Hills was named "Wahoo." They hosted travel writers and dignitaries, including Presidents, military heroes, and movie stars, for the purpose of getting free publicity for our state; and,

Whereas, The writers and visitors were provided a glimpse of the diverse population which makes up the Black Hills and returned home to write glowing reports of the beautiful scenery and friendly people; and,

Whereas, After WWII, the visitor industry flourished again and the visitor industry gained momentum. Convention and Visitors Bureaus have been developed in many cities across South Dakota, and gradually volunteer organizations such as Wahoo, have been replaced by professionals; and,

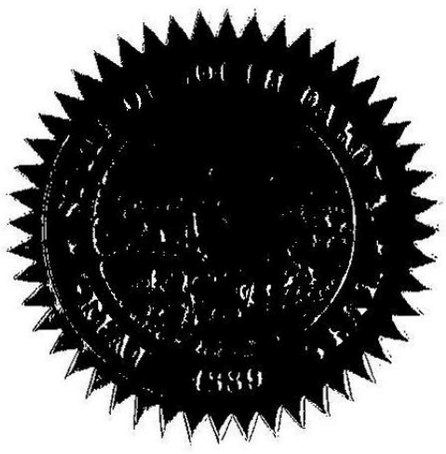
Whereas, Wahoo has since settled into a social organization, meeting several times a year for programs and an opportunity to renew old friendships; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor to recognize the numerous contributions Wahoo has made to the community of Rapid City and the Black Hills area over the past 70 years:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 6, 2009, as

WAHOO DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State